

Press-Herald

GLENN W. PFEIL Publisher
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Notice to Our Readers

Political advertising being circulated throughout Torrance this week uses comments of several community leaders and this newspaper in support of the candidacy of Orin P. (Bud) Johnson, one of eleven candidates seeking election to the Torrance City Council on Tuesday.

We can only speculate on the accuracy of the other comments, but we can speak knowingly on those attributed to the Press-Herald, comments which appear to imply that the Press-Herald is supporting Mr. Johnson's candidacy.

Nothing stands farther from the truth. Mr. Johnson first erred in assuming comments made several years ago under greatly different circumstances might still apply.

He erred again in using only selected parts of those comments, dropping out words and phrases which may have detracted from the implications he sought or which would have revealed the true intent of the comment.

He erred finally in reproducing such altered comments without seeking our approval.

While we are flattered that Mr. Johnson recognizes the importance of the Press-Herald in the community's efforts to obtain qualified city officials, we prefer to make our own decisions about the candidates we recommend.

In this case we decided against recommending Mr. Johnson. His flagrant abuse of responsible campaign practices in this instance adds strength to the soundness of our decision.

For that, at least, we thank him.

An Important Milestone

Tuesday's election, although coming at the end of a quieter than usual campaign, should be an important milestone in the progress of the city of Torrance.

Three members of the seven-man City Council will be selected and the voters will decide whether to keep the city controlled housing code or switch to the similar state code, and whether to grant the mayor and councilmen a healthy pay boost.

In recent issues, the Press-Herald has commented editorially on each of these issues.

We have endorsed and urge the election of George Vico, Leo F. X. Salisbury, and Dr. Donald E. Wilson as councilmen. These are the only candidates we have recommended despite the attempts by some to associate out-of-context remarks with other ambitions.

We have recommended against approval of the housing code proposal, shown on the ballot as Measure A. While some have held out the argument that approval would show the community's disfavor with urban renewal, the Press-Herald believes that such disfavor might be shown in ways other than blocking local control of the housing code and forcing officials to use the state code.

Likewise, the Press-Herald has enumerated the many reasons it feels that the councilmen need to take some other steps to police their lavish expense-account living and free-wheeling travel budgets before the taxpayers are asked to dig deeper for a monthly salary. Several candidates and present councilmen favor reasonable limits on the extra-curricular expenses, but until serious efforts are made to put some controls into operation, the Press-Herald must oppose further taxpayer costs in this area.

Opinions of Others

What the budget really shows is what Americans are faced with as a result of an era of unrestrained hikes in federal spending, and a consequent rising cost of living. It is a paying-the-fiddler, or reaping-the-whirlwind budget.—Clarissa (Minn.) Independent.

On the subject of honesty in labeling of packages, which is the subject of considerable investigation at taxpayers' expense, I like the suggestion, source unknown, that the federal government do a little cleaning up of its product, dollar bills for example. It should carry the notation: "Warning—This dollar bill has no gold or silver supporting it and is guaranteed only by your government which is deeply in debt and operating at a deficit." Honesty in government labeling is as important as honesty in labeling goods in commerce.—Englewood (Colo.) Herald.

Morning Report:

I learned with alarm the other day that a young scientist might have found a way to forecast the date of earthquakes. I hope he is a failure.

Imagine what would happen if he said that New York City would be hit by a massive quake next Wednesday at noon. Masses of people would start pouring out of town. Scores would be killed in traffic accidents. Hundreds of the elderly would suffer fatal heart attacks walking down from their penthouses as the elevator operators would have taken off in panic. Power shutdowns would paralyze hospitals and subways.

No, if a little knowledge is a dangerous thing, too much is a full-scale catastrophe. Let the quakes come unannounced.

Abe Mellinkoff



SACRAMENTO SCENE

Lawmakers Stir Up Some Waves, Progress Little

SACRAMENTO—The California legislature, after more than three months in session but with little accomplished, has recessed for 10 days for Easter.

The lawmakers were scheduled to resume their deliberations on April 15. There is a strong movement for another recess after about five weeks for the primary election, provided the work of the session is not completed by then and there are no prospects for its completion by June 4.

As the legislators left for their Easter holiday, about 2400 bills had been introduced. Only two days will remain for free bill introduction upon their return, which means that if the number is near that of last years, there will be a terrific logjam of bill introductions on April 15 and 16. Last year about 4,500 bills were introduced.

By the time of the recess, the legislators had approved and sent to the governor 27 bills, of which 16 had been signed into law. This left no doubt that, as usual, most of the legislative activity would be jammed into the closing weeks of the session.

Progress reports from both houses are to the effect that budget bills may be out of committee and ready for the full-house action in early May. This would be more than a month earlier than usual and there was considerable doubt this would come to be.

Perhaps the biggest subject for the legislature in 1968, other than the budget, is a property tax relief plan. The 1967 legislature included in one of its bills the requirement that \$150 in property tax relief must be provided by July 1 or the state's 4 per cent sales tax would revert to 3 1/2 per cent. First hearings on various property tax relief proposals were held by the assembly committee on revenue and taxation last week. Governor Reagan has proposed that one-half cent of sales tax revenue be returned to the counties but the counties pick up costs for some \$36 million in programs now paid for by the state. There are other alternatives but the assembly committee apparently will take them all under submission and come up with a committee bill. Meanwhile, Assembly Speaker Jesse M. Unruh, D-Englewood, said he thought chances of passing a property tax relief bill this year were "practically nil."

Another tax matter—that of tax reform—also seems

to be slated for inclusion during this session. Governor Reagan, who had said earlier he'd have a tax reform program ready for introduction in February or March, now has announced his program will be delayed until next year. A task force has submitted a lengthy report to the governor on how the tax structure might be reformed. However, Reagan never had disclosed any of the details of what his proposals might be and these now presumably will not be known before 1969.

A turnabout has been taken by Governor Reagan in his position on the Rumford Housing Act—the controversial 1963 law which prohibits discrimination in the sale and rental of most housing because of race, creed, color, religion or national origin. Reagan had campaigned in 1966 in favor of repeal of the Rumford Act. His position softened a bit last year, in that he still favored repeal but believed a modified act should be substituted for it. At his most recent press conference, Reagan said he would veto a straight repeal of the Rumford Act. The governor said the act has become a symbol to many minority race people and he would not favor its repeal.

Review of Major News On the Sacramento Scene

Another proposal of the governor's has not produced any rash of enthusiasm. This is Reagan's suggestion, made in a televised report to the people, that people be encouraged to open Christmas Club-type savings accounts to put away monies to pay their state income taxes. The governor encouraged employers to permit employees to have this do-it-yourself saving plan deducted from their paychecks. Assembly Speaker Unruh was highly critical, calling the plan "the ultimate in illogical and confused thinking." Unruh said the plan failed to help the state's cash flow problem and did not stop persons who evaded the tax. But Reagan pointed out it did not take payroll deductions from persons who might not owe tax—nobody is going to ask to have 27 cents a week deducted from his check, the governor said. Senator George Miller Jr., D-Martinez, the finance power in the senate, said "nobody needs Governor Reagan's help to save their money."

Bills. The perennial bill to abolish capital punishment has been introduced in the legislature again by one of its chief proponents, Assemblyman Lester A. McMillan, D-Los Angeles. The assembly has approved and sent to the senate AB528-H, Johnson, which would cut off the automatic \$65,000 a year appropriation for county and district fairs. The bill always has had rough going in the more rural senate. The assembly also approved AB177-Warren, which would permit political parties to receive exhibit space at fairs, free of charge.

New bills introduced included: SB763-Collier, increases harness racing in Southern California from 13 to 24 weeks a year; AB1314-Wilson, authorizes licensing of plumbers and electricians by counties; SB797-Miller, creates educational research commission to administer experimental schools; SB908-Whetmore, prohibits highway patrol from evaluating its officers on the basis of how many citations they issued; and the assembly education committee has approved AB411-Fong, which would repeal the requirements that foreign language be taught in all schools in grades six through eight.

Major crime increased in California by 11.6 per cent during 1967, sparked by sharp increases in reported major crimes in Alameda and San Francisco counties. There were 475,835 serious crimes reported in California during last year, making a rate of 2,436 per 100,000 population. However, the crime rate was up 30.3 per cent in Alameda county and was 38.3 per cent higher in San Francisco. The state bureau of criminal statistics said the high rate of increase in the two bay counties was the result of jumps in all seven major crimes but especially in robbery and burglary. Statewide, crimes involving personal violence increased 16.8 per cent during the year, mainly as the result of a jump in robbery offenses.

Man's best friend is having a tough time proving he can remain the best friend if he stays overnight in state parks. The department of parks and recreation, which permitted the overnight Bowser bill for the past three months, for the first time in 23 years, said the reaction is good from dog owners but not from non-dog owners. There were a lot of letters in support of the plan before it took effect but most of the letters since the dogs were permitted have been against the plan, the department said.

FROM THE MAILBOX

Unethical Campaign Use Of Quotations Charged

(Following are copies of messages from Edward J. Ferraro, Torrance city manager; and J. Walker Owens, executive vice president of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, relating to the unauthorized use of unrelated comments in political advertising seeking to further the ambitions of Orin P. Johnson, ex-city official now seeking election to the City Council. The Editors.)

the fact that you used completely deceptive and unethical methods to involve me in a political campaign and I hereby solicit a public apology.

J. WALKER OWENS, Executive Vice President, Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce

Outlook for Low School Costs Go

Editor, Press-Herald:

The growth of Torrance in industry, finance, commerce, and population has shown variable influences on the tax rate over the years. During the period of the fifties the birth rate and moves-in made the city poorer in wealth behind each pupil; as the pupil population increased 1600 per cent while the tax base increased less than half that fast.

In the early sixties the leveling off was gradual, but now we are seeing the wealth behind each pupil grow faster than the birth rate.

This means that Torrance can look forward in a few years to a lowering tax rate for schools if these trends keep up. It also means that instead of increasing the override tax level substantially there is some hope of only having to renew it at approximately the same ceiling for the next five years providing costs are held within reason.

These facts can only be the truth if costs do not sky-

rocket. The big factor in school financing is salaries, and trends have never been down since the teacher shortage has been in existence. So we do have a sobering factor in what otherwise appears to be a rosy picture for the taxpayer in the 1970s in the Torrance school district.

Another factor we need to watch is to plan our city so that we avoid some of the extra costs that many urban schools have acquired. This takes cooperative community effort.

Perhaps it is just a good idea not to take too optimistic an outlook before all the facts are in, but the picture is definitely brightening for the local school taxpayer in Torrance.

J. H. HULL, Superintendent, TUSD

Operation Nepal Success Hailed

Editor, Press-Herald

Thank you for your helpfulness in publicizing Operation Nepal. We feel that this contributed significantly in drawing so many people and making the event such a success.

We certainly appreciate your support.

JOHN A. LUCAS, Principal, South High LYNN CURTIS, Chairman GLENN A. WILLET, Adult Advisor

YOUR LAWMAKERS

U.S. SENATORS

Thomas H. Kuchel (R), 315 Old Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C., 20240, or 300 N. Spring St., Los Angeles, 90012, phone 688-2000.

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CONGRESSMEN

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28th District — Alphonzo Bell (R), 1504 Longworth Building, Washington, D.C., 20240, or 1248 Fifth Street, Santa Monica, 90401, phone 478-0111.

STATE SENATORS

25th District — Robert S. Stevens (R), 1245 Glendon Ave., Los Angeles, 90024, or telephone 272-4647.

31st District — James Q. Wedworth, (D), 8404 S. Crenshaw Blvd., Inglewood, phone 788-0604.

32nd District — Ralph C. Dills (D), 504 Pacific Trade Center, San Pedro.

ASSEMBLYMEN

46th District — Robert G. Beverly (R), 1611 S. Pacific Coast Hwy., Redondo Beach, 90277, telephone 378-8522.

67th District — L. E. Townsend (D), 18436 Hawthorne Blvd., Torrance, 90504, phone 370-7421.

68th District — Vincent Thomas (D), Pacific Trade Center, San Pedro, 833-2881.

(Messages for state officers may be addressed to them at the State Capitol Building, Sacramento, Calif. 95814.)

THE UNSEEN PICKPOCKET!

